

**Remarks**

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 15-19, 21 and 22 have been withdrawn due to a restriction requirement. Claims 6, 8 and 9-14 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 1, 3 and 20 are rejected because they claim subject matter that is in part excluded under a restriction requirement. The method of use claims 21-22 are rejected as claiming the treatment of diseases that are treated by antagonists of chemokine receptors other than CCR-2. The method of use claim 23 has been rejected for claiming a method of ameliorating, controlling and reducing the risk of rheumatoid arthritis. There are no prior art rejections.

Group II of the restriction requirement has been elected. Claim 1 has been amended so that it is directed to compounds of Figure IIa from Claim 3. The definitions of Claim 1 have been amended so that they conform with the restriction requirement. Claim 6 has been amended by incorporating the definitions of R<sup>23</sup> and R<sup>24</sup> from Claim 5. Claims 21 and 22 have been canceled. Claim 23 has been amended so that it claims a method of treating rheumatoid arthritis.

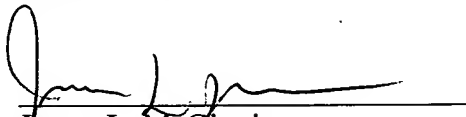
Other amendments to the claims correct minor errors and informalities in the claims, such as using "or" to connect members of a Markush group, and are self-explanatory. New Claim 24 has been added, listing the specific compounds that are claimed.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly submitted. If the Examiner wishes to discuss any matter with respect to the current application or amendment, she is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

This response is timely and no fee is due. If a fee is required for this response to be considered, the fee can be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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Date: December 29, 2008